GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2770
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES
SAMIK LAHIRI;SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO;Y.G. MAHAJAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of mental health facilities in the country with regard to doctors, hospitals and drug manufacturing;

(b) whether social awareness programmes in this regard are conducted by the Government;

(c) whether Government have conducted any survey of mental patients in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds proposed to be allocated for this purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): There are over 18,000 beds for psychiatric patients spread across 37 Government mental hospitals. In addition, there are about 3500 beds located in general hospitals/hospitals affiliated to medical colleges. There are over 3000 qualified Psychiatrists, 500 clinical psychologists, 300 psychiatric social workers and about 600 trained psychiatric nurses in the country. Availability of psychotropic drugs is satisfactory and the cost of such drugs is reasonable/affordable. Under the National Mental Health Programme, the Government has initiated a pilot programme named the District Mental Health Programme, which is currently being implemented in 29 districts covering 22 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care centre and district level by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives. The mental health care delivery system is proposed to be upgraded/expanded during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. A number of research projects have been undertaken and major research initiatives are planned for the Tenth Five Year Plan period.

(b): Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are also a component of District Mental Health Programme for creating social awareness.

(c)&(d): Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(e): An amount of Rs.30.00 crores have been allocated for the year 2002-2003 and final allocation of funds for the Tenth Five Year Plan for the National Mental Health Programme is awaited.